

Tennessee Department of Correction:

An Historical Journey

Average Cost Per Inmate

- In 1898, the cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately \$117.48 (.32/day).
- By 1918, this cost had risen to approximately \$230.57 (.63/day).
- In 2003, the cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately \$16,063.65 (\$44.01/day).

Politically Incorrect?.....

- “Insane and incurable”
- “Some become insane here; others are sent here (strange as it may seem) that way.”
(TDOC Annual Report: Report of the Warden - 1884)
- “There are a few insane and demented prisoners.....” (TDOC Annual Report: 1900-02)
- Tennessee School for the Deaf and Dumb.
- Home for Feeble-minded Persons.

1884 - “Innovations?”

“Abandoned solitary confinement, starving on bread and water, tying up by the thumbs”
seeing it as “cruel, unnatural and inhuman.”

(TDOC Annual Report: Report of the Warden - 1884)

Unusual Crimes?

- Drawing an Arkansas Toothpick (bowie knife)
- Begetting a child on wife's sister.
- Killing a bull.
- Burning a boat.
- Whitecapping (Threaten & intimidate).
- Violating Postal Law.
- Releasing prisoner from jail.
- Going masked.
- Crime against nature.

“A picture

is worth

a thousand words.....”



State Prison Farm - 1897



Power Plant - 1900



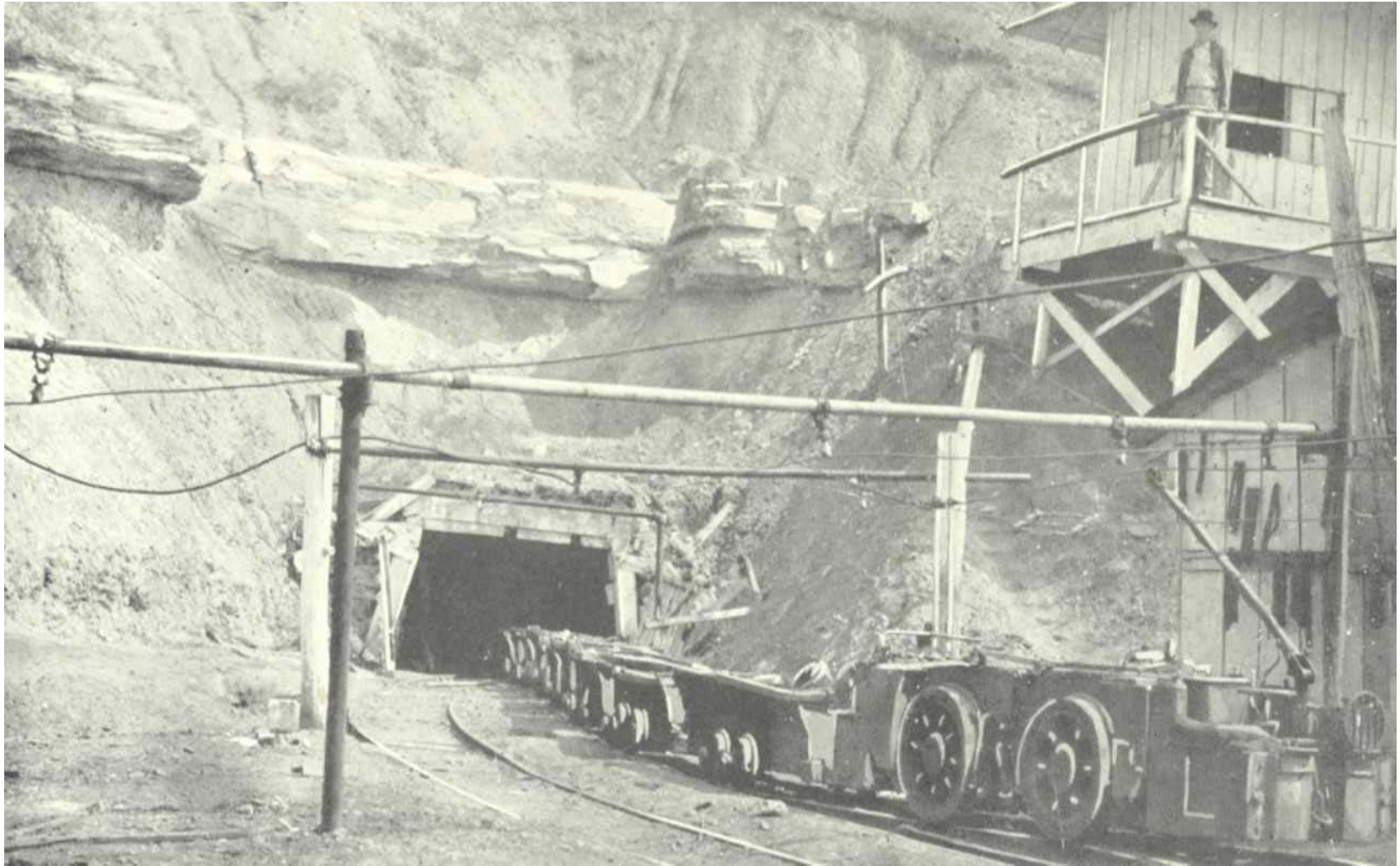
Prisoners in line entering dining hall at Main Prison- 1902



Bloodhounds at the State Prison Farm - 1902



Main Prison in Nashville - 1902



Brushy Mountain Coal Mine - 1922

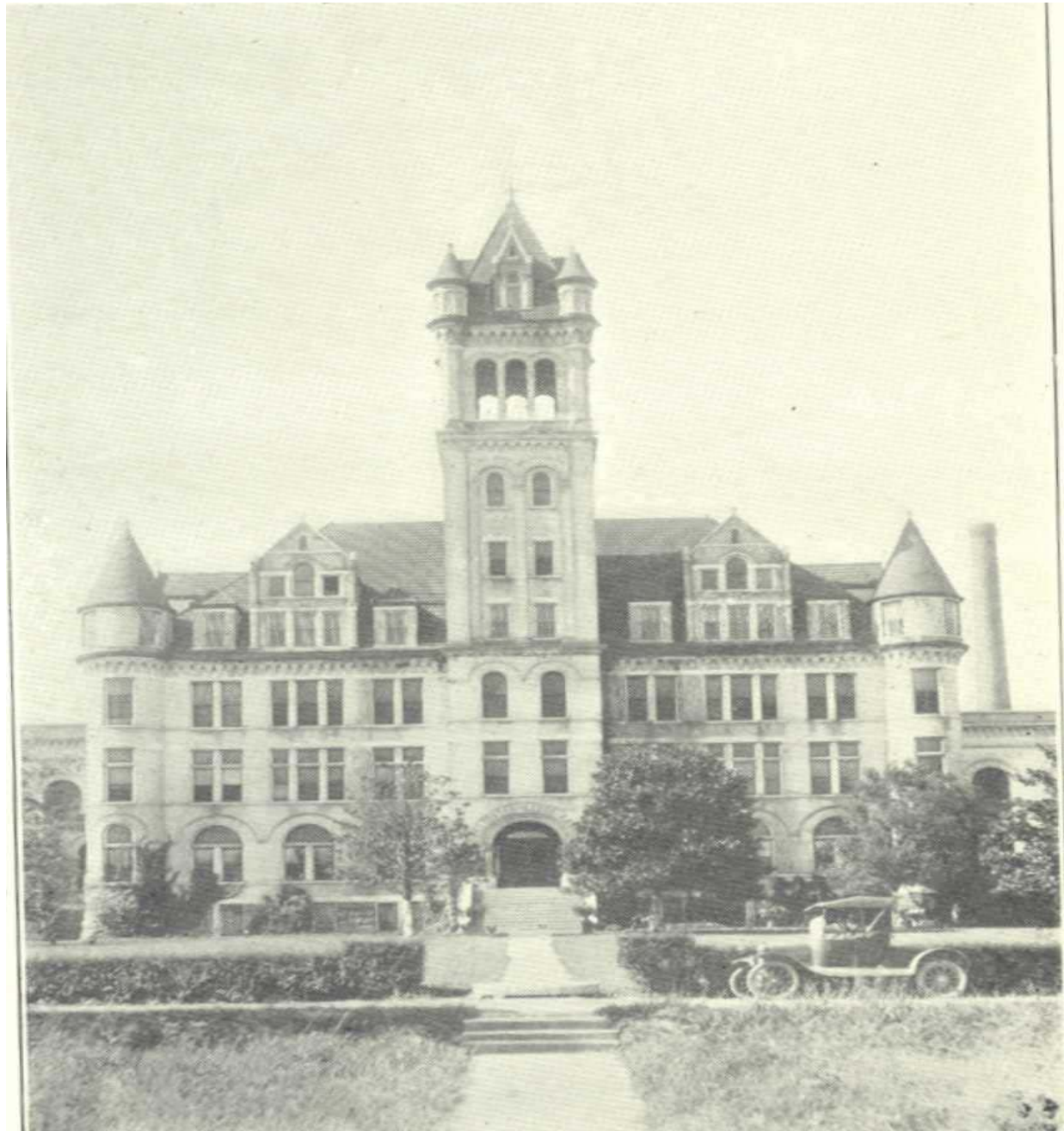


Brushy Mountain Sleeping Quarters - 1922



Dairy Farm - 1922

**Tennessee State
Penitentiary:
1922**





Feeble Minded Institution: Administration Building - 1922



Fort Pillow - Canning Green Beans: 1941



TSP - Death House: 1946



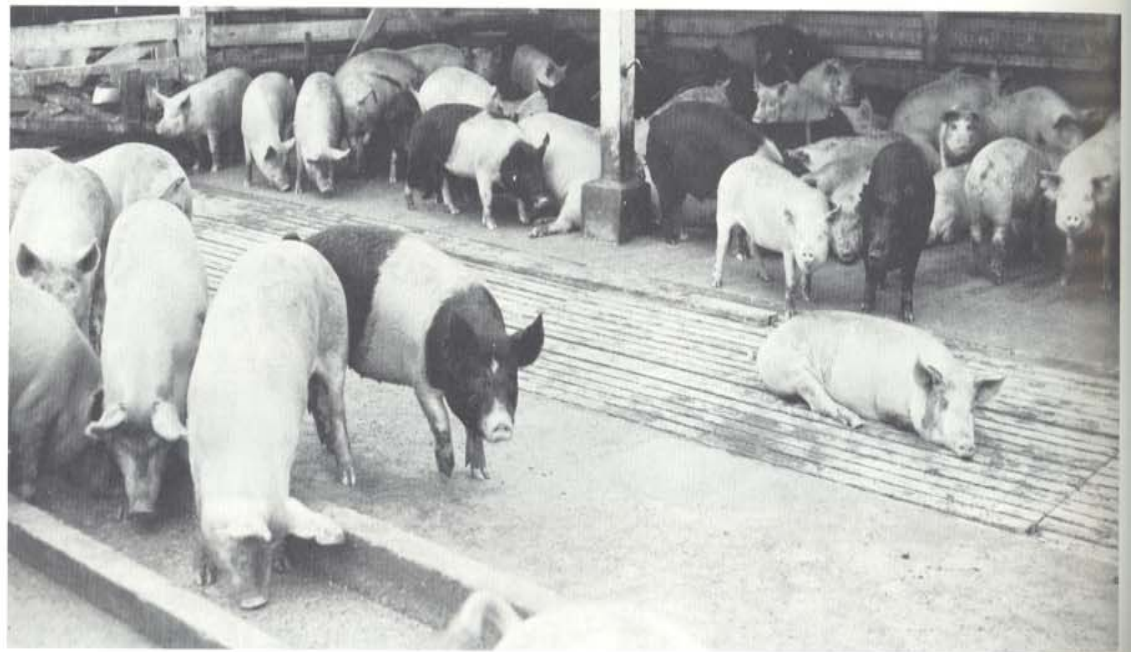
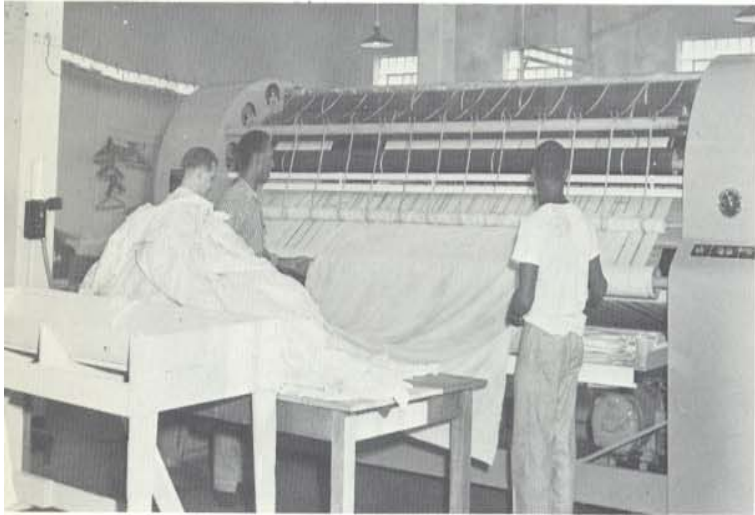
TSP - Inmates working on Cell Block: 1962



TSP - Inmates working on roof



Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex - 1966



Fort Pillow State Farm - 1966



**“New”
Cells at
Brushy
Mountain**



Tennessee State Penitentiary - 1966



TSP - 1966





Tennessee State Industries

TSP: 1966





Tullahoma School for Girls-1966 Future Site of Tennessee Correctional Academy



Tennessee State Penitentiary-Women's Unit - 1966



Turney Center and Industrial Prison - 1970



Tennessee Prison for Women - 1970

Although most of the current
TDOC institutions are of similar
design.....







Programming &

Prison Work has

changed.....



Inmate Construction Workers



Inmates Knitting at TPW



TRICOR



Overnight Child Visitation Program - TPW



Woodworking & Carpentry

Community Service



Inmate Work Crews

To be continued.....

Researched & Compiled by:

Sara J. Conte, Analyst

Gabrielle Chapman, Director

Tennessee Department of Correction

Division of Planning & Research